

NH Advisory Committee on Fire Protection  
Meeting Minutes December 6, 2006

Members in Attendance: Lawrence Thibodeau, Len Daniels, Chris Burns, Steve Mango, Rob Farley and John Mooney

Also in attendance from ECBA: Steve Rancourt and Bill Fraser

Lawrence Thibodeau called the meeting to order and the first order of business was to review the November Minutes which was done so without comment. Len Daniels made a motion to accept the minutes and Chris Burns seconded. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

Rob Farley then passed out to the Committee the latest revised Proposal now dated 11/07/06.

First reviewed was section 1204.02 (a) (1) and (2):

This section was reviewed without discussion except for moving "13R" systems from 1204.02 (a) (2) b. to 1204.02 (a) (1).

Then the new insertion 1203.01 (e) (3) was reviewed without discussion.

The discussion then turned to Continuing Education and renewal of the Individual's Certificate.

Rob Farley suggested that the Committee have each discipline develop criteria for Continuing Education and then we could look at the length of an Individual Certificate which is now, according to 1204.05 (b), for one year.

In regards to 1209 PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION, Chris Burns suggested adding a 1209.01 (b) for apprentices as he does not want them excluded.

Bill Fraser was recognized and he added that, as is, the Proposal has no mechanism to recognize apprentices or a Certification of Training so a town or Local Authority does not necessarily have to accept an apprentice. He stated that if we are to develop a model, it should be done once and done right.

Steve Rancourt agreed and said he just wanted to allow a mechanism to kick in for an apprentice to be able to advance.

Rob Farley again (as in past meetings) reminded all that the Committee should not be driven by what a Local Authority may or may not require. He is not against a Certificate of Training but since this is a new area, new language will need to be developed.

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Rob Farley: Returning to Bill Fraser's comments, Rob stated that if the Committee does not come up with parameters for Certificate of Training, that could be an area where towns do amend or change our Proposal so Rob agreed that some sort of a model should be set up.

Len Daniels thought that a trainee should be able to work under a Certified Individual running a job. He wondered what the ratio of a certified Individual to trainees should be.

Chris Burns offered that there is no ratio of electricians to apprentices.

Lawrence Thibodeau said that from his sprinkler experience that he would have one Installer with maybe three people working under him.

John Mooney asked the Committee if the Certified Individual had to be "physically" on the jobsite to which other Committee members said 'yes'.

Rob Farley asked if the Committee thought it wise to have a ratio limit.

Bill Fraser was recognized again and his opinion was that a ratio issue could create hard feelings. He stated that currently a Master Electrician had no limits on how many journeymen could work under him.

Lawrence Thibodeau agreed and felt it would 'muddy the waters'.

Steve Mango asked if there was a difference between a 'Certificate of Training' and a 'Provisional Certificate' and is a Certificate of Training necessary since there would be a provisional Certificate.

Rob Farley replied that a Provisional Certificate, which has a 2 year life span, gets a person who has past job experience in a particular discipline 'in the door' while a Certificate of Training would be geared more towards the person who had no past experience but would be receiving "on the job experience".

The discussion then turned to 'Definitions' and Steve Mango wanted to know the difference between an 'Installer' as defined in 1202.07 and a 'Technician' as defined in 1202.12.

Rob Farley stated the way he read it was that an installer would supervise other installers.

Lawrence Thibodeau felt that even though these two definitions pertained to Fire Alarms and Detection systems that it could be broadened to include all disciplines. He said we also should insert in the Definition section "Certificate of Training".

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Rob Farley asked the Committee to submit to him any new or updated Definitions.

Len Daniels reminded the Committee that anyone who wants a Certificate of Training should be working for a Registered Firm and this should be tied into the Definition.

On the revision to the Initial Proposal dated 11/07/06, Rob Farley asked the Committee if there were any comments or corrections to be made to the red inserts.

No one in the Committee had any revisions or problems with the insertions.

Lawrence Thibodeau then asked about the work that the Electricians and Alarms Representatives to the Committee, Chris Burns and Steve Mango, had for the other members of the Committee.

Chris Burns began with handout of proposed revisions and he wanted to begin with the Definitions Section. He said he researched the Delaware program where Installer, Technician and Designer were broken out into different categories with different responsibilities. It was his and the ECBA's opinion that they should be separated out.

Steve Mango replied that the New Hampshire Alarm Associations position is that the Definitions, as is, do not need to be changed. He still does not see where licensed NH electricians had no specific training in alarms. Steve said it has been his experience that to become an 'authorized distributor' for an alarm manufacturer that the person needed to display a knowledge of how to program panels on a specific system.

Chris Burns understood the position but said he felt that someone must have experience to be an installer beyond just being a factory authorized distributor.

Rob Farley made the following comments: The language submitted to define 'Designer' could bring about questions whether the Committee has statutory authority to do so. He felt that JLCAR could possibly reject this definition. He also stated that in Chris' suggested revised definitions on an Installer being required to have 144 hours of NEC training that it would have to be better explained to convince the Fire Marshal that this is necessary.

Chris Burns said that the 144 hours is just a starting point and that it can be adjusted. As far as his suggested revisions to the definition of an Installer, it was just a common sense approach and the submission was a consensus of the ECBA. He said that now when doing alarm systems, that his electricians install according to the plans of a designer and when the installation is concluded, a technician programs the panel and certifies the system.

Len Daniels said that some Firms have designers that are not factory authorized and some provisions should be made for them.

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Chris Burns suggested perhaps a NICET III or higher certification for designers who were not factory authorized.

Len Daniels then asked if the NEC (National Electric Codes) refers to NFPA-72. He felt that 144 hours was too much and he would like to see a course synopsis.

Chris Burns “Yes it ties in together and 144 hours was the original baseline.”

Len Daniels then stated he thought the reference to a ‘licensed Electrician’ in 1204 (8) B) (1) should be removed

Chris burns suggested that he could add “and/or a certified technician”. He also wanted the Committee to know that the verbiage can be cleaned up.

On Chris’ handout to the Committee, he was proposing on 1202.07 in the Definitions section that the words “repair and Testing’ should be removed.

Rob Farley asked that by removing these words, someone else besides the installer will now be needed to perform the acceptance test?

Chris Burns: “Yes”

Steve Mango felt that this was all a matter of semantics as part of an installation would require ‘testing’ and now we would be ‘lowering the bar’ for installers.

Chris Burns said that electricians just wanted to install the pipe, wires and panel off of a blueprint.

Lawrence Thibodeau said another problem is that while larger contractors could have both technicians and installers, smaller or one man firms that do residential work probably would not have both types of people at their disposal.

Chris Burns said that would need to be looked at and separated especially since the bill never specified commercial only.

Steve Rancourt was recognized and he said that the ECBA was not trying to start from scratch and that disagreements between the ECBA and the NHAA wouldn’t change but the purpose of this handout was to make the ECBA’s point of view known.

Steve Mango asked rhetorically that for a one man shop to qualify he would need a Firm Certificate, Installer Certificate and now another layer a Designer Certificate.

Chris Burns said it was all about safety and that person could be NICET III certified.

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Len Daniels then asked Chris that according to his proposal in the handout that a technician can install an alarm system but a designer cannot. In other words the designer must be or must have a Technician or Installer in the Firm.

Chris Burns said the reasoning was that a company with a designer only could sell equipment but if they wanted to perform installations, they would have to hire an installer.

The discussion then turned to Chris Burns handout and reference to section 1204 (8) with the definition of a 'Technician'.

Chris Burns said that 1204 (8)A) was left in it's original form and that section 1204 (8) B) was his insertion in which 2 of the three offered criteria had to be met:

Section 1204 (8) B) (1) **AND** 1204 (8) B) (3)

**OR**

Section 1204 (8) B) (2) **AND** 1204 (8) B0 (3)

At this point of the meeting John Mooney excused himself from the meeting and Len Daniels acted as Secretary for the remainder of the meeting. His minutes will be sent to the Committee in a separate document.

Please note that this was John Mooney's last meeting as Secretary but he will still remain on the Committee as the representative for the 'Fixed Fire Extinguishing Systems' trades.

Next meeting Weds, January 3, 2007 at 9am.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Mooney